

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 AMMAN 05473 121512Z

46

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
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R 121400Z AUG 75
FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5356
INFO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

S E C R E T AMMAN 5473

STADIS//////////

EXDIS

EE.O. 11652 GDS
TAGS: PFOR JO IS US
SUBJECT: JORDAN ISRAELI BORDER ISSUE

1. RIFAI ON AUGUST 10 ASKED FOR OUR HELP IN MOVING ISRAELI FENCE AND MINEFIELD IN WADI ARABA TO BUID A NEW ROAD. HE EXPLAINED THAT ISRAELIS HAD PUT FENCE AND MINES INTO THEIR TERRITORY AFTER 1967 TO KEEP FEDAYEEN OUT AND KATUSHA ROCKETS FROM HITTING THE ISRAELI DEAD SEA POTASH WORKS. NOW ONLY VIABLE LINE FOR A ROAD THEY WANT TO BUILD HAS TO USE THAT AREA AND JORDAN SOON WOULD HAVE TO GO IN THIER AND CUT THE FENCE AND PULL UP THE MINES. HE SAID HE WANTED TO GIVE US MAPS AND SHOW US WHERE THE PROBLEM WAS. I MADE NO COMMITMENTS OF COURSE BUT WILL FIND IT DIFFICULT TO REFUSE TO LISTEN. RIFAI SAID HE IS NOW PREPARING MAPS OF THE AREA WHICH HE WANTS TO GIVE US.

2. RIFAI AFFIRMED THAT THERE IS NOT QUESTION ABOUT WHERE THE REAL INTERNATIONAL BORDER IS LOCATED SINCE THE BRITISH FIXED IT IN THE 1920'S BETWEEN THE TRANSJORDAN AND PALESTINE MANDATES. PROBLEM WILL NOT BECOME ACUTE FOR THEM FOR SOME TWO OR THREE MONTHS BUT HE HOPES THAT ISSUE OF FEANCE AND MINEFIELDS CAN BE WORKED OUT BEFORE THEY HAVE TO REMOVE THEM ON THEIR OWN.

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3. COMMENT: AT THIS POINT I HAVE KEP ONLY A WATCHING
BRIEF WITH RIFAI AND WILL CONTINUE TO DO SO AND REPORT UNLESS
OTHERSIE INSTRUCTED. WE HAVE NO IDEA WHAT THE ISRALIS THINK
ABOUT THE PROBLEM. IT IS CLEAR THAT RIFAI WOULD LIKE
OUR HELP WITH THEM BUT I WOULD STRONGLY SUGGEST WE WAIT
FOR HIM TO MAKE MORE CLEAR TO US WHAT THE ACTUAL PROBLEM
IS ON THE GROUND BEFORE DOING ANYTHING.
END COMMENT.
PICKERING

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

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